

Soft Skills Mastery in Turbulent

Times - Building a Foundation for

Sustainable Career Success

9 am – 5 pm, Saturday, March 2, 2024 Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School 675 Hoes Lane West, Piscataway, NJ 08854



Career Development Workshop

Soft Skills

The pandemic has profoundly affected various aspects of our lives. Large pharmaceutical companies and numerous start up biotech companies have undergone significant restructuring to realign their strategic priorities and extend their runway. Navigating this challenging time, it is crucial to reassess and continually sharpen soft skills for career advancement.

SAPA is pleased to present our flagship event - the Career Development Workshop (CDW) and Career Fair (CF). This year's CDW and CF will focus on how soft skills can accelerate your career growth. Seasoned industry and academic leaders are invited to share their invaluable insights and experiences.

This year's CDW and CF will be highly interactive. The participants will have opportunities to engage meaningful conversations with professionals of various levels of experiences from both academia and pharmaceutical industry. Graduate students, post doctoral fellows, young and experienced professionals can all benefit from this one day event that can jump start or enhance your career soft skills. A job fair and an one on one session will also be held in parallel to the workshop with various biotech and pharmaceutical companies recruiting for new talents.

Welcome to the 2024 SAPA CDW and CF

CDW and CF Program Agenda

Time	Sessions, Speakers and Panelists		
9:00 – 12:00 pm	Plenary Session (East Lecture Hall)		
9:00 – 9:10 am	Yongle Pang, Opening Remarks		
9:10 – 9:15 am	Jack Wu, SAPA President Remarks		
9:15 – 9:45 am	Ulrich Otte, Senior Vice President Finance & Operations at Novo Nordisk / CFO for North America. "Making a Difference with Passion, Skills and Curiosity"		
9:45 – 10:15 am	Nisha Zaidi, Vice President, Global Alliances - Strategy & Business Development at Bristol Myers Squibb. "Navigating Your Career Path – Lessons in Leadership"		
10:15 – 10:45 am	Coffee Break		
10:45 – 11:15 am	Benjamin Freer and Steven Dranoff, Professor, Fairleigh Dickinson University. "Empathy Training: A Path to Understand Others and Ourselves"		
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Panel Discussion with Speakers Session moderator: Sara Gao Session Panelists: Ulrich Otte, Nisha Zaidi, Benjamin Freer	and Steven Dranoff	
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lunch (Great Hall)		12:0
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Parallel Session A:	Parallel Session B: Career Catalyst: Igniting Exploration, Interviewing, and Transition Triumphs	Care
	Parallel Session A1 (East Lecture Hall): Leadership Success		1:30
	Stories Along the Career Journey Host: David Cragin, Jamie Huang	Parallel Session B1 (West Lecture Hall): Interview Illumination: Shedding Light on Success Strategies (mock interview)	1:30
		Moderator: Junchi Lu	
		Panelists: Fiona Cui, Jiaying Liu	Part
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Coffee Break		
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Parallel Session A2 (East Lecture Hall) Will Curiosity Kill The Cat Or Skill The Cat? How To Activate Curiosity As Your Leadership Superpower Host: Sara Gao	e Parallel Session B2 (West Lecture Hall): Career Quest: Embark on a Journey of Exploration and Growth (panel) Moderator: Junchi Lu Panelists: Jessica Cao, Zhiying Li, Rachel Hao, Fiona Cui,	
	Host. Jara Gau	Jiaying Liu	



12:00 - 4:00 pm

Career Job Fairs with SAPA Sponsors (Great Hall)

1:30 – 3:30 pm **Professional Photo Booth**

L:30 – 4:00 pm **1:1 Meetings** (Student Lounge)

Participating Companies:



Session A1 (East Lecture Hall)

Leadership Success Stories Along the Career Journey

Hosts:

David Cragin, PhD and Jamie Huang, PhD

Come share and learn best practices for: leadership, managing up and giving effective feedback

We're all travelers in a career journey. Whether you are early or far along in your journey, you have stories to share. Attend to find out best practices and build your network in a highly interactive and engaging session.





Session B1 (West Lecture Hall)

Interview Illumination: Shedding Light on Success Strategies (mock interview)

Moderator: Junchi Lu, PhD

Panelists: Fiona Cui, MS and Jiaying Liu, PhD

Join us for an exploration of interview mastery with guidance from diverse experts in HR, science, and business

Highlights:

- Practice phone screening for impactful first impressions
- Navigate panel interviews with confidence
- Master one-on-one interviews with personalized feedback
- Tackle technical and behavioral questions effortlessly
- Prepare for salary negotiation
- Gain insights from seasoned professionals in HR, science, and business

Session A2 (East Lecture Hall)

Will Curiosity Kill The Cat Or Skill The Cat? How To Activate Curiosity As Your Leadership Superpower

Host: Sara Gao, MS

In an era marked by rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, escalating geopolitical tensions, and pervasive uncertainty, the essence of effective leadership transcends the mere possession of answers. It lies in the art of posing the right questions. Curiosity, a vital yet often underestimated facet of leadership, has been recognized and nurtured by globally acclaimed organizations, such as Novartis, Lego, and Nike, for its transformative potential. This interactive session invites you to delve into both the luminous and shadowy aspects of curiosity. We aim to explore how stimulating your innate inquisitiveness can fuel innovation, facilitate collaboration with individuals of divergent viewpoints, and enhance your personal well-being.





Session B2 (West Lecture Hall)

Career Quest: Embark on a Journey of Exploration and Growth (panel)

Moderator: Junchi Lu, PhD

Panelists: Jessica Cao, PhD, Zhiying Li, PhD, Rachel Hao, PhD, Fiona Cui,, MS and Jiaying Liu, PhD

Are you ready to embark on a transformative journey towards a fulfilling career path? Join us for an enriching panel discussion where we delve into essential aspects of career development, guided by seasoned professionals and experts.

Highlights:

- Embark on a journey of self-discovery
- · Conquer obstacles on your path
- Embrace new opportunities beyond research
- Shine beyond the resume
- Connect with purposeful networking

Biography of Speakers and Panelists

Arranged alphabetically on last names



Jessica Cao, PhD Manager, Bristol Myers Squibb

Jessica is a highly accomplished professional with a strong academic foundation, holding a bachelor's and master's degree from Peking University, and a PhD in pharmaceutical science from The Ohio State University. Her journey in the biopharma industry began in the global product marketing team at GenScript. Currently, Jessica serves as the Neuroscience TA lead in the product strategy team within the drug product development department at BMS.



David Cragin, PhD, DABT
Senior Director, Teva Pharmaceutical

Dr. David Cragin, DABT, is Senior Director of Product Science in Environment, Health, Safety and Sustainability at Teva Pharmaceutical. He contributes to the overall leadership of EHS&S functions and also he leads a team that creates safety data sheets and occupational exposure limits to support efforts to protect employee safety and acceptable daily exposures for quality operations. He's also a subject matter expert on beta lactams, titanium dioxide, and iron oxide. Previously he served as a Director in Quality Assurance and multiple other roles for Merck & Co. Outside of Teva, he teaches risk assessment and critical thinking for the Peking University, and Beijing Normal University. Dr. Cragin is a Trustee of the Toxicology Education Foundation, is

Past-President of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology, and a Councilor for the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking. He received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from University of California, Davis, his B.S. in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology.



Fiona Cui, MS
Co-founder, Globetrek Talent

Fiona Cui is a co-founder at GlobeTrek Talent, where she specializes in talent acquisition for biopharmaceutical and cross-border enterprises. With more than ten years of experience in talent acquisition, human resources, and entrepreneurship, Fiona has worked in various roles, including at multinational pharmaceutical firms such as Simcere Pharmaceutical and startup biotech ventures like Flagship Pioneering. Additionally, she co-founded a retail brand called Uji Match in Indonesia.

Throughout her career, Fiona has worked in diverse cultural settings, including China, the United States, India, Indonesia, and the United Nations. This exposure has given her valuable insights into cross-cultural dynamics and global talent markets. Known for her expertise in international recruitment and HR process improvement, Fiona has a proven track record of navigating complex talent landscapes and enhancing organizational performance.

Fiona's vision is to continue connecting top-tier talent with leading organizations in the biopharmaceutical and cross-border business sectors, fostering innovation and success on a global scale.



Steven Dranoff, PhDCo-Founder, Center for Empathy Research and Training, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Dr. Dranoff is a licensed psychologist and psychoanalyst with 40 years of experience as a clinician, consultant, educator, author, and researcher. He has a private practice and works with adolescents, adults, and couples. He is also the founder and President of D&D Consultants, Inc., a national consulting firm specializing in leadership training, and prevention in all forms of harassment, bullying, and violence. His work also includes a model for empathy training and removing the roadblocks and resistances that interfere with an empathic connection with others in the consultation room, boardroom, classroom, and courtroom.

A recipient of many prestigious industry awards and a highly sought after public speaker, his web-based empathy training programs teach people how to recognize and understand their behavior and interactions with others, properly categorize them, and then develop effective personnel and management initiatives to achieve positive outcomes and to avoid negative consequences.

In addition to his leadership of D&D Consulting, Dr. Dranoff is the co-founder and Director of Fairleigh Dickinson University's Center for Empathy Research and Training.



Benjamin Freer, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology; Director,
School of Psychology and Counseling
Fairleigh Dickson University

Dr. Freer is the Director of the School of Psychology and Counseling, Co-founder of the Center for Empathy Research and Training (CERT), and an Associate Professor of Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). Dr. Freer earned his doctorate in Experimental Psychology from the University of Kentucky with a focus on cognitive development. Dr. Freer's research examines how life experiences can impact children, adults, and families with a specific focus on the response to potentially traumatic events. His research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals and at national and international conferences.

Dr. Freer recently co-founded, with Dr. Steve Dranoff, the Center for Empathy Research and Training at FDU. The Center operates with the mission of: Through proven empathy training methods and applied psychological research, engage and teach individuals and groups to become proactive change agents for societal transformation by preventing, mitigating, and resolving aggressive behavior in the global communities where we teach, work, and live. He is heavily involved in the Transforming College Campuses program at FDU that will provide a dynamic program of support for first-year undergraduate students while simultaneously providing training opportunities for graduate students and upper-level undergraduate students. Dr. Freer has represented FDU at the United Nations on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2012. In this role he has worked with the NGO Committee on the Family-New York and recently completed a 4-year term as the co-chair. The goal of the NGO Committee on the Family-New York is to "promote, preserve, and protect the well-being of the family" as "stable families are essential for stable communities, stable nations, and a stable world."



Sara Gao, MSDirector, Wharton Executive Education

Born in China, educated in Europe, Sara Gao has worked in Europe, Asia and the USA as a talent development expert in the past 20 years. Sara currently works as program director at Wharton Executive Education. Her passion is to bring senior leaders from various industries around the world to a life changing learning experience, so they are ready to create a positive impact for a better world. As a career coach, Sara specializes in coaching Asian professionals to become successful leaders in a multicultural environment.

Sara started her career at Universum, a global employer branding consulting firm. She led her team to introduce the concept of Employer Branding to China for the first time. Sara worked with many global corporations to help them improve their talent attraction and retention strategies. Her clients include companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola, and IBM.

Sara graduated from Stockholm School of Economics with a master degree of science majoring in business.



Rachel Hao, PhD Associate Principal Scientist, Merck

Dr. Ruixin (Rachel) Hao is an Associate Principal Scientist at Merck, focusing on carcinogenicity risk assessment initiatives and predictive toxicology strategies. With a Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology, she has a robust background in toxicology and

extensive experience in preclinical drug development. Rachel's career includes roles as a Technical Account Manager at Sino Biological and significant contributions at DuPont, where she managed toxicology studies and led predictive toxicology projects for agrochemical product registration. Holding an MBA in progress at the University of North Carolina, Rachel is a multifaceted professional with certifications in project management, technical leadership, graphic design, and computer programming. She is an active member of various professional organizations, including SAPA and the Society of Toxicology, and has received prestigious awards, such as the HESI Future Leader Award. Rachel's leadership extends to executive roles in professional societies and Toastmasters, demonstrating her commitment to scientific excellence and professional development.



Jamie Huang, PhD
Founder and leadership coach, Princeton
Leadership Academy

Jingrong (Jamie) Huang, ICF Professional Certified Coach (PCC), Ph.D. Jamie is the founder and leadership coach of Princeton Leadership academy, catalyzing innovative growth in three to six months for the most innovative individuals, Fortune 500, startups, and government agencies. Jamie has more than twenty years of hands-on experience in non-technical areas including executive coaching, team coaching, and leadership development training, and technical areas including quality software R&D. She is Gallup Certified Strengths Coach, Hogan Certified Executive Coach, HeadHunter Heidrick, and Struggle certified Leadership Coach for Organizational Performance. She earned her Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Columbia University after completing her MS in Physics from the University of California, Irvine, and BS from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). On the personal side, Jamie enjoys movies, musicals, and half marathons.



Zhiying Li, PhD Director, GemPharmatech

Zhiying is a neuroscientist by training with in-depth experience in metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases. After completing training at Harvard University and the Rockefeller University, Zhiying has been in the service industry, providing animal models and preclinical services to academia, biotech and pharma companies. Zhiying's expertise span science and technology, business development and sales, organizational development and market acquisition. Originating from an interest that grew during PhD, Zhiying became a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider very recently and is looking forward to serving the community at large. For leisure, Zhiying enjoyed jogging and TV.



Jiaying Liu, PhD Senior Scientist, Merck

Jiaying is a seasoned formulation scientist and biomedical engineering. She got her bachelor's degree from Peking University in 2013 and PhD degree from Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University in 2019. Her research was recognized by many prestigious journals, like Nano Letters, Journal of Controlled Release, Biomaterials, etc. In the past 4 years, she has been taking roles of increasing responsibilities in the Pharmaceutical Sciences organization in Merck & Co., Inc to lead cross-functional teams in the development of oral and parenteral product developments and contributed to successfully approved NDAs and marketed products. She is also currently the director of Global Communication Department in SAPA and the AAPS Excipient Community LT. She has rich experience in hiring students/volunteers as well as applying to job opportunities.



Junchi Lu, PhD Senior Manager, Bristol Myers Squibb

Junchi Lu currently serves as the Senior Manager of Strategy & Business Excellence Analytics, concentrating on advancing business analytics solutions for the Strategy & Business Excellence and Global Supply Chain divisions within GPS. Her role at BMS marks a transition from Guidehouse Life Sciences Consulting, where she held the position of a senior consultant, contributing to numerous brand, commercial, and market development strategy initiatives.

Throughout her career, Junchi has been dedicated to the convergence of life science technologies, digital health innovations, and advanced analytics. She is particularly passionate about constructing innovative analytical solutions that have a meaningful impact on enhancing patients' well-being. Before joining BMS, Junchi spearheaded various commercial strategy projects, with a primary focus on areas such as FemTech, digital health, CAR-T therapy, and a diverse range of therapeutic products.

Junchi earned her Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, where she pioneered the development of groundbreaking far-infrared and mid-infrared medical devices for diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

Beyond her professional role, Junchi takes on leadership responsibilities, heading the SAPA (Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association) Communication – External Media Practice. Additionally, she actively contributes to the Data Science & Medical Device & Diagnostics Community (MDDC).



Ulrich Otte, MS Senior Vice President Finance & Operations at Novo Nordisk / CFO for North America

Ulrich Otte is Senior Vice President, Finance & Operations for Novo Nordisk Inc. since September 1, 2020. In this role, Mr. Otte provides strategic direction, business insights and corporate governance counsel, and now oversees Commercial Operations, to guide the financial health and commercial execution of the organization.

Joining the U.S. leadership team in 2017, his team has been responsible for supply chain management, procurement and business services, pricing and contract operations, information technology, and commercial effectiveness and data analysis functions. Now, in addition to his financial management responsibilities, he leads an operational team focused on the organization's efforts to unify operational expertise, drive synergies with Insights & Analytics and IT and increase adoption of technology.

Mr. Otte brings more than 20 years of broad finance and business background ranging from technical accounting and auditing, to managing global transformation projects and leading roles in productions, commercial and Market Access functions.

Prior to joining Novo Nordisk Inc., Mr. Otte was Corporate Vice President, Finance for Novo Nordisk China, leading a diverse team that supported market access, government and public affairs, finance, information technology and procurement, and Hong Kong commercial operations.

Mr. Otte joined Novo Nordisk in 2000 as Financial Controller Corporate Accounting in Copenhagen, Denmark and held roles of increasing financial responsibility in Copenhagen including Corporate Vice President, Product Supply Global Investment and Finance, and Corporate Vice President, Corporate Financial Planning. He began his career as an Audit Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Otte holds a Master of Science in Business, Economics and Auditing from Copenhagen Business School.



Nisha Zaidi, PhD, MS

Vice President, Global Alliances Strategy &
Business Development, Bristol Myers Squibb

Nisha is a Vice President of Global Alliances at Bristol Myers Squibb, and serves as a strategic alliance leader, responsible for building and optimizing relationships and driving decision-making to ensure long-term sustainability of the Bristol Myers Squibb pipeline. Nisha focuses on maximizing the value of strategic global partnerships, leading company integrations, and mentoring alliance leaders through the life cycle of an alliance, to uphold Bristol Myers Squibb as a partner of choice.

With more than 20 years in the industry, Nisha has worked across Business Development & Global Alliances, Medical Affairs, and Research and Development. Nisha started off her career at Sanofi as a scientist before moving into Medical Affairs. Later at Celgene, Nisha led U.S. drug launches as a Medical lead before joining Global Alliances.

Nisha holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree and PhD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Organizing Committee

Workshop Co-Chairs

Yongle Pang

Eric Rong

Committee Members

Ting-Him Chan

Xi Cheng

David Cragin

Yang Ge

Juntao He

Shuo Huang

Brian Jiang

Jianming Kang

Chen Kang

Yongmei Li

Jack Li

Jessie Li

Jiaying Liu

Junchi Lu

Wen Shi

Nan Sun

Yang Wang

Chuxuan Wang

Yuhan Wei

Jack Wu

Shengjie Xu

Dexi Yang

Zhou Yu

Lisheng Zhou

About SAPA

The Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association (SAPA) was established in 1993 and is headquartered in the center of the pharmaceutical corridor in New Jersey, USA. Since its inception, SAPA rapidly became one of the most active Chinese American professional associations in the US with eight chapters and more than 6,000 members.

SAPA's members are primarily from large and mid-sized pharmaceutical and biotech companies in the US, with areas of expertise covering almost every aspect of pharmaceutical research and development as well as production.

The organization's large membership base and their superb scientific and technical abilities has allowed SAPA to be a key source for knowledge exchange on the latest developments in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and generic drug industries.

As a non-profit organization registered in the US, SAPA receives generous sponsorship and support from numerous multinational companies in the US and overseas. SAPA will continue to provide a broad platform for scientific and technical discussion, talent exchange, and training for the colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry from the US and China.

Professional Expertise of SAPA Members

- Drug discovery, research and development
- Preclinical and clinical research and development
- Application and registration of new drug and biologics to the US FDA
- Production and manufacture of pharmaceuticals and biological products
- Commercial and marketing of pharmaceutical and biological products
- Generic product development and technology

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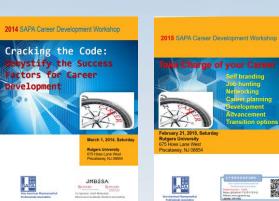




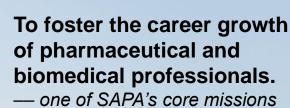






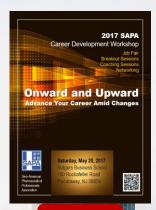




















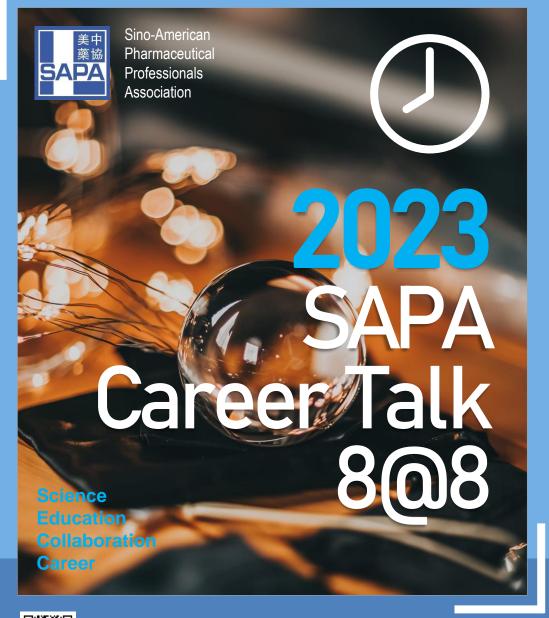












8 pm on the 8th day of every month.

SAPA Career Talk 8@8 is a virtual webinar series hosted on the 8th day of every month at 8 pm. We will discuss career hot topics and address concerns related to SAPA members and friends. These sessions are complimentary to all.



Scan the QR code on the right to register for the event, and join us from 8:00 – 9:30 pm, on the 8th day of each month. Please note that at the Zoom registration page you can register for all of the 2023 8@8 monthly program, so please make sure to select the right month from the pull-down menu. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the session.





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Scan to Register

Sunday, January 7, 2024
12:30-5:30 pm Conference, Reception & Networking

PwC San Francisco Office 405 Howard Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105

Science ♦ Education ♦ Collaboration ♦ Career





Sino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association

2024 SAPA Scientific Symposium

Innovation with Versatility:
New Approaches
from Benchtop to Bedside

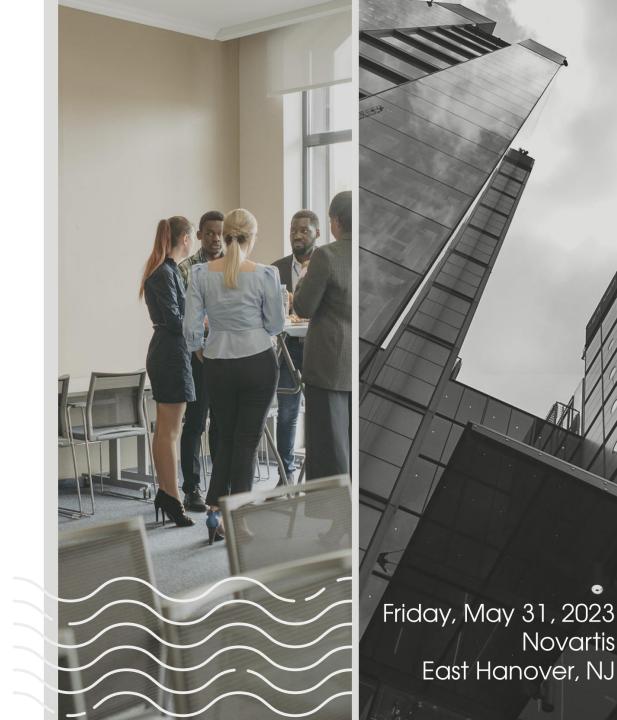


Saturday, April 20, 2024
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
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2024 SAPA Corporate Sponsor Summit

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2024 SAPA HEALTHCARE INVESTMENT Forum & Roadshow

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Saturday, June 22, 2024 New York, NY









2024 SAPA Annual Conference

Redefining Medicine: Navigating Resilience, Transforming Lives





Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 26 - 28, 2024 Hyatt Regency New Brunswick 2 Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901





SAPA Mission

As a global organization, SAPA's mission is:

- To promote advancement of pharmaceutical science and biotechnology
- To contribute to public health education
- To promote entrepreneurship, healthcare investment and business cooperation
- To foster career development of pharmaceutical professionals

ino-American Pharmaceutical Professionals Association

Connecting dots to grow together

www.sapaweb.org